

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-8 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Figs. 1A-1C should be labeled as "Prior Art." Accordingly, a replacement drawing sheet is submitted herewith in order to so label each of Figs. 1A-1C as "Prior Art".

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to for inclusion of the phrase "The invention provides ...". Accordingly, the Abstract has been revised to avoid such phrase and to comply with the requirement of 37 CFR 1.72(b) that the Abstract not exceed 150 words in length.

In items 3 and 4 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the phrase "the extruding direction" in line 4 of claim 4 lacks sufficient antecedent basis. However, the Examiner's attention is directed to lines 14 and 15 of original claim 1 which includes the phrase "an extruding direction," thereby providing proper antecedent for the recitation of "the extruding direction" in claim 4. Regarding the recitation of "the pair of diameter extending members" in line 2 of claim 7, this phrase has been provided with proper antecedent basis by amending claim 7 to depend from claim 5 which recites "a pair of diameter extending members that are capable ...".

Regarding the recitation of "the surrounded guide passage" in line 20 of claim 8, claim 8 has been amended to change "maintaining the surrounded guide passage" to --the piston ring is guided by the guide passage--, thereby avoiding the term "the surrounded guide passage".

In items 5-7 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 1-3 are allowed, that claims 4-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, it is submitted that the claims are now clearly allowable.

It is noted that a few additional revisions have been made to the claims to improve the English grammar and U.S. form thereof, but these changes are non-substantive.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Charles R Watts/

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April 5, 2010